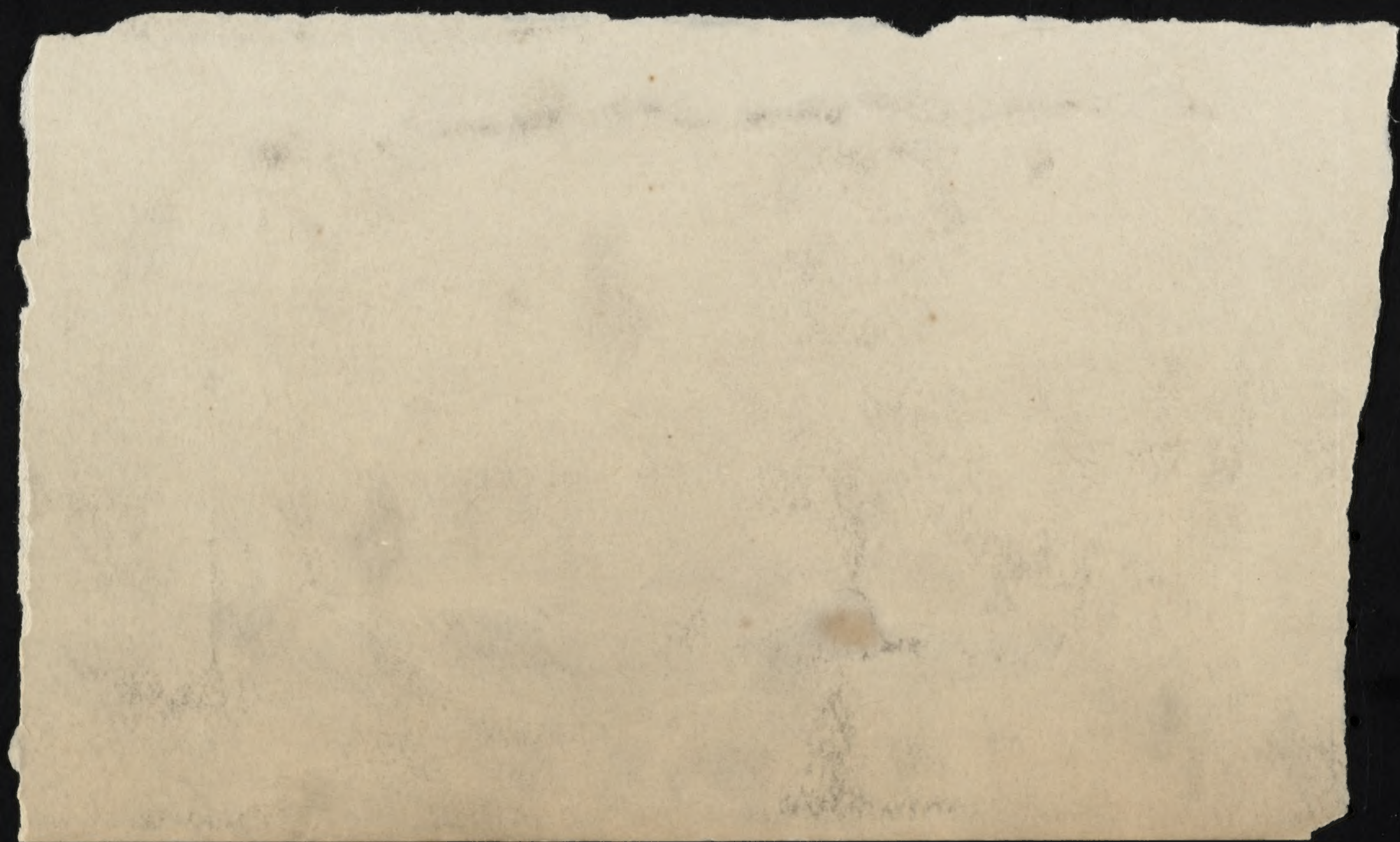


Dec. 26, 1870

Oliver Johnson,  
Independent Office,  
New York City,  
N. Y.



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Roxbury, Dec. 25, 1870.

My dear Johnson:

I was equally surprised and gratified to receive a letter from Rev. Dr. Eggleston, (enclosing an introductory one from yourself,) inviting me still to write for the Independent, and particularly to have an article ready for the first number in January.

I have no knowledge of Dr. E's antecedents; but, in view of this invitation and of your hearty commendation of him, I infer that he has a broad and catholic mind, and, consequently, that he will make the Independent as fair-minded and liberal under his management as it has been under that of our friend Tilton. More than this need not be asked; less than this would be detrimental both to the usefulness and circulation of the paper.

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This leads me to hope that Mr. Bowen will decline accepting your resignation, and that you will remain at your post as hitherto. No one can be found to fill it with such fidelity, tact, industry, and ability as yourself; for you are a veteran in the business, and understand the fitness of things perfectly. I shall be greatly surprised, therefore, if Mr. Bowen shall consent to part with you. Dr. Eggleston, I am sure, will find you invaluable as an assistant.

Theodore's valediction and Mr. Bowen's commentary are handsomely expressed, and indicate that there is to be no estrangement on their part. Certainly the latter is greatly indebted to the former for having secured so wide and popular a circulation of the Independent, and made it the best of the religious journals in the land, because the most practical as concerning the vital issues of the day.

It would delight us all at Rock-  
ledge to have a visit from you whenever  
convenient to yourself.

Though my article on the San Do-  
mingo affair was not published as early  
as I could have desired, its appearance is  
not untimely, as the matter is still pending.  
I am entirely with Sumner, and feel equally  
indignant and disgusted at the scandalous  
attacks made upon him by Morton, Conk-  
ling, Chandler, et al. Grant, in making  
a hearty endorsement of his every pro-  
position to Congress a test of his friendship  
and countenance, is revealing a con-  
ceited and despotic spirit which has  
been fostered by his great popularity, but  
which calls for public rebuke. Mr. Sum-  
ner's deserves great praise for preserving his  
personal and senatorial independence.

My affectionate regards to Mary Ann.

Yours, at all seasons,  
Wm. Lloyd Garrison.

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